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Champion
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Inferno wrecked my car, says West Lancs mum

Bread firm's healthy eating lesson for youngsters

NHS HOSPITALS UNDER FIRE OVER PARKING COSTS

Trust reveals it made a whopping £1.6m in charges during 2016/17

Report by **Henry James**

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospitals are among those from across the country which have come under fire for making millions of pounds from car park charges in the last 12 months.

The figures are part of a report from the Press Association, which showed that NHS hospitals made a record £175m from staff, patients and visitors last year.

These statistics have increased dramatically from 2014/15 when they were £164m and have been called a 'tax on the sick.'

A spokesperson for Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust confirmed that cash raised during the last year for patient car parking was £691,363 at Ormskirk Hospital and £930,418 at Southport Hospital - that's a total of £1,621,781 pulled in from patients, staff and visitors to both hospitals.

The trust point out that more are now taking advantage of their weekly, three monthly and vending scheme 'out of hours' options which they claim have resulted in 'significant discounted rates' for patients across both hospital sites. The spokesperson added: "All cash raised from car parking charges at the Trust go towards the cost of maintaining the car parks with any surplus going directly to further improving patient care."

"For frequent visitors, passes are available for £10 a week or £30 for three months plus a £10 refundable deposit. These are available from the general office at either hospital site or the porters' lodge out of office hours."

To use the car park at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals for 0-20 minutes it is free; for 20 minutes to two hours it is £2.90; from two to four hours, it is £3.50; from four to eight hours, it is £4.30, and for more than eight hours, it is £5.30.

Continued inside

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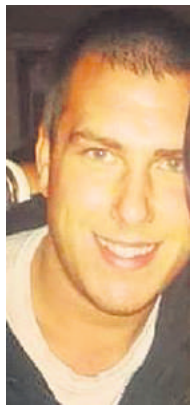
Tributes paid to dad killed in crash

TRIBUTES have been paid to a father-of-four from Skelmersdale who died following a road traffic collision in North Wales just days before Christmas.

Danny Deegan, 26, was driving a Ford Focus when it was involved with a crash with a Vauxhall Vivaro van on the A547 Abergele Road between Old Colwyn and Llanddulas shortly after 6pm on Wednesday, December 20.



Danny Deegan

Mr Deegan was pronounced dead at the scene. A passenger, Martin Clifford Kelly, 41, who was local to the Llysfaen area, was taken to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd by ambulance, but he later died.

The driver of the Vauxhall van was left with minor injuries.

Danny had been visiting family for a little break and died the day he was due to come home for christmas.

He leaves behind four children who are six, seven, nine and 10.

Continued inside

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Borough Council's £1.1m budget gap 'very challenging' says finance chief

Report by **Henry James**

Coun. Adam Yates

WEST Lancashire Borough Council officers have identified a "significant budget gap" for 2018-19 of £1.1m and have commented that the position is "very challenging."

Services could suffer because of this and the council has warned it may have to increase fees and charges, including its part of the final Council Tax bill by 2.6% in 2018/19. The budget will be set by Councillor Adam Yates, the cabinet member for finance.

The budget gap includes £145,000 to meet the proposed 2% pay increase for most staff and higher increases for the lowest paid staff.

This issue is to be discussed by cabinet on Tuesday, January 9 and a final decision will be made at the council meeting to be held on February 28.

The budget gap figure is the difference between the spending that is required to maintain services at agreed level and the resources that are expected to be available.

West Lancs Council has prepared draft estimates for next year, but they cannot be finalised until the Local Government Finance Settlement has been worked out. Officers have said a number of factors need to be looked at, such as:

- How the remaining budget gap should be addressed taking into account the Local Government Finance Settlement
- The challenging financial position facing local authorities over the medium term where any budget increases will need to be met by savings elsewhere in the budget
- The acceptance of budget issues and pressures identified by Heads of Service
- Changes to fees and charges and the level of the Council Tax
- Use of current and previous year's favourable budget variances
- The Council's Reserves policy.
- The Group leaders and their financial spokespersons looking at various budget options.

Marc Taylor, the borough treasurer at the council said in a report for the meeting: "The council currently has a healthy financial position where there is a projected favourable budget variance in the current year.

"However, looking forward there remains a significant budget gap for 2018-19, with further savings required in subsequent years.

"Consequently the medium term financial picture remains very challenging, and a process will need to be put in place in 2018 to ensure that this position is addressed."

henry.james@champnews.com

Tributes paid to father-of-four killed in collision on North Wales road

From page 1

His family paid the following tribute to him: "He had a heart of gold, was a petrol head and fixer. He was a really funny family man who leaves behind four small children. Danny was a lovable rogue, known as Del Boy (from Only Fools and Horses). He was very popular locally and liked by all who knew him. He also always made an instant good impact, and was a ray of sunshine who had a precious bond with his Mum."

His sister Katie Deegan has set up a JustGiving page to raise money for Danny's children. She had hoped to raise £400, but the page has collected £2,771.

Katie wrote on the page: "Danny was a very important person to me and it has broken the hearts of everyone who knew him and especially the hearts of our family.

"I thought it would be a nice idea to give his children something that they can say, this is off our daddy. So I was hoping to try and raise them some money to set them all up with a future fund each, so that when they are bigger they can maybe have a little head start in life.

"Danny really was a family man. He loved his kids more than the world. He will always be watching over them now as an angel in heaven.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their kind words these last two days."

Any witnesses or anyone who may have information that could assist the investigation is asked to contact officers at the Roads Policing Unit on 101 quoting reference number V190821.

Bread firm offers healthy eating lessons to youngsters

Report by **Henry James**

STAFF from WARBURTONS bakers paid a visit to St James' Catholic Primary school in Skelmersdale to launch its award-winning national 'School Visitor Programme.'

Their new school visitor, Caroline Bond, dropped in on Year 3 pupils, building on the success of the programme which currently operates in 12 areas across the UK.

Children participating in Caroline's workshops will learn about the importance of a healthy, balanced diet through practical activities such as a bread and sandwich-making workshop.

The hands-on session helps children understand the importance of healthy eating while enjoying fun activities along the way. Since starting as a school visitor, 1,439 children have participated in Caroline's healthy eating workshops.

Warburtons' School Visitor Programme is an initiative that enriches food education for schoolchildren aged 5-11, from Devon to Glasgow. This year, the project has engaged with over 40,000 children, teaching them the importance of a balanced diet, hygiene and safety, food waste, and basic food preparation.

Nicola Bradbury, Year 3 Class teacher at St. James' Catholic Primary School, said: "What a fantastic way to spread the word about healthy eating across the North West!

"We were delighted to be able to arrange this visit - my class haven't stopped talking about it and we would like to invite Caroline back to work with the next Year 3 class. They really enjoyed the practical sandwich making activity which helped to promote the benefits of a balanced diet. We hope she'll be able to come again!"

Caroline Bond, school visitor at Warburtons at St James'

Caroline, said: "I decided to become a school visitor because I love working with children and educating them on healthy eating so they can hopefully lead a happy and healthy life.

"The sessions help children learn by providing the right tools and information to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.

"They are always so excited to do the session, they always have lots of questions and love making the sandwiches." The School Visitors programme is part of Warburtons' community investment strategy, Families Matter, which seeks to address key issues such as health education, employability and skills, and financial stability. The programme aims to make a positive impact on communities.

In September 2016, Warburtons was recognised for its Families Matter Strategy and declared winner of the 'Community Partner' Award at the Food and Drink Federation Awards.

Hospitals under fire over parking profits

From page 1

In the 2015-16 financial year, a total of £668,501 was collected at Ormskirk District General Hospital and £880,858 at Southport District General Hospital.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper said: "Ideally, I wish there were no parking charges at all on hospital car parks.

"I have previously campaigned for Southport and Ormskirk Hospital to strike a more sensible balance between properly managing the car park and being more considerate of the public and patients using the car park, especially in times of emergency.

"I have also lobbied the trust to implement Government guidelines on free or reduced parking for many groups of people including those with disabilities, frequent outpatient attenders, visitors with gravely ill relatives and staff working shifts when public transport is not available. Any income generated by the hospital through its parking charges must be reinvested in the hospital and not provide profit for private companies."

In 2008 in Scotland and Wales parking charges in hospitals were scrapped, although fees do still exist at some hospitals in those countries.

However, in this country the trusts only have guidelines on how much and when to charge, which state the fees "should be reasonable for the area." There are supposed to be concessions for the disabled and frequent visitors.

Guidelines

Katherine Murphy, the chief executive of the Patients Association said she did not think it was fair that parking was free at hospitals in Wales and Scotland, but not in England.

She added: "The NHS is clearly underfunded but the onus on meeting the funding crisis should most certainly not be shouldered by the sick, injured and vulnerable."

The Department of Health has said that hospitals are expected to follow guidelines and put concessions in place for people who need help – which includes staff on shifts, the disabled, and carers."

For patients from Sefton and West Lancs who have to travel to Aintree Hospital, the report is even more alarming.

Aintree hospital which charges £3 for a one-hour visit has been included in the list of the most expensive trusts in England for this fee.

Last year they made a whopping £2.7m from car parking charges.

The most expensive trust in England for a one-hour visit was Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford where it costs £4 to park for an hour.

The Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust generated the highest income from parking income - £4,865,000.

Skelmersdale Police appeal for information on missing sex offender

SKELMERSDALE Police are appealing for information on missing sex offender Paul Jevons.

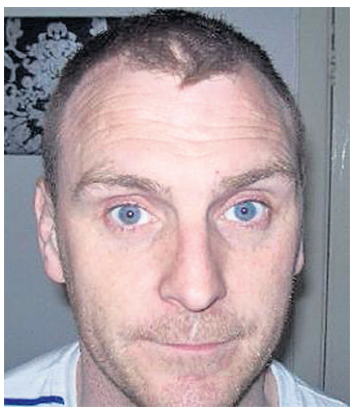
He breached his notifications by failing to tell them when he moved out of his address in Skelmersdale in September.

Jevons is described as white, 5ft 10in tall with blue eyes.

He has links to Merseyside, Cheshire and Greater Manchester.

If you have any information call 101 quoting log LC-20171110-0854.

Detective Constable Dan Perkins of Preston Police, said: "If anybody has seen Jevons or knows of his whereabouts I would ask that they get in touch with us as soon as possible. Similarly we would appeal to Jevons, if he sees this appeal, to make contact with us immediately."



Paul Jevons

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Death of club-goer prompts city bars to use 'knife wands'

BARS and clubs in two Liverpool city centre areas have received 'knife wands' in an attempt to crack down on people carrying weapons following the murder of club-goer Sam Cook.

One hundred venues with late licenses based in Mathew Street and the Ropewalks area, which includes Concert Square, Slater Street and Bold Street, have received the specialist equipment, free of charge, enabling them to search club-goers in order to help detect anyone who may be carrying a knife.

The devices have been funded by Mayor of Liverpool Joe Anderson in the wake of the death of Sam Cook who was stabbed at the Empire Club, on Seel Street, in October.

The venue has since had its premises licence revoked and a man has been charged with murder.

Mayor Anderson said: "Since the tragic death of Sam, we have been working closely with Merseyside Police as well as bars and clubs in the city centre to look at ways we can tackle this issue and prevent anything as senseless as this happening again.

"We are sending out the message that carrying and using knives is totally and utterly unacceptable and we hope by introducing these wands it will act as a deterrent, and as a result reassure people planning to enjoy a night out here.

"When our teams have been handing out the devices there has been a really positive response from venues - the majority rarely have any issues relating to knife crime, yet they understand the importance of having a preventative initiative like this in place.

"It's important to stress that Liverpool city centre is one of the safest in the country and we have Purple Flag status which is a national award recognising a safe, clean and well-managed city centre and night time economy."

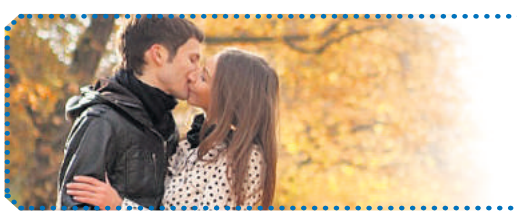
Knife wands have been given to city centre clubs.

Local Policing Superintendent Mark Wiggins said: "We welcome the introduction of knife wands to licensed premises in Liverpool city centre, which supports our own tactics when we carry out regular knife crime operations. This is exactly the type of strong partnership work which we hope will help eradicate knife crime in Merseyside.

"Knives are dangerous and there is no place for them on the streets of Merseyside.

"Using a knife can have devastating consequences, as we have seen recently and I hope that by constantly stressing the dangers of knife crime we are getting the message across, particularly to our young people. I would urge people to educate themselves, speak to their children and family members and prevent the repeat of any such tragedies.

"We are grateful for the support of Liverpool City Council, the community and our partners in carrying out this work and we will continue to work towards removing knives and dangerous weapons from our streets and bringing those responsible for carrying – and using – them to justice."



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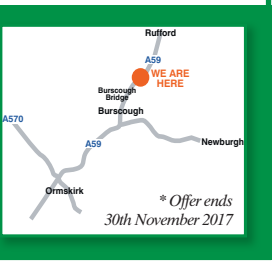

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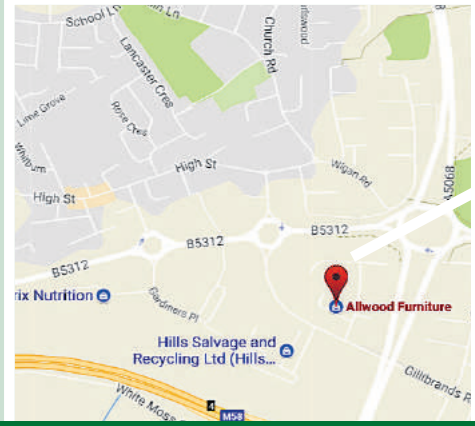

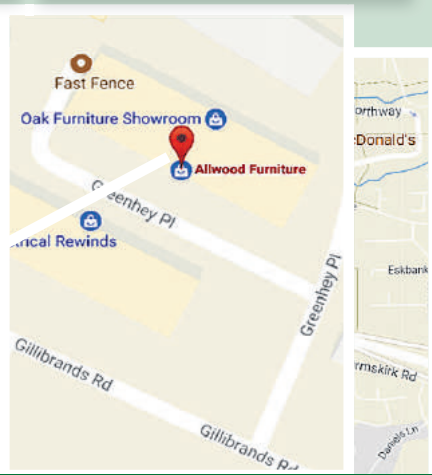

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West Lancs mum and daughter are caught up in arena car park inferno drama in city centre

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A WEST Lancs woman who lost her car in the New Year's Eve King's Dock car park fire in Liverpool has told of how she and her daughter were traumatised by the experience.

Michelle Pennington, 51, had been attending the International Horse Show at the Echo Arena with her 11-year old daughter Emily where a fire in the adjacent car park destroyed 1,400 cars.

Michelle, 59, a community nurse who runs autism and ADHD clinics for community paediatricians, said: "We were first of all informed that a car had gone on fire, that it was a small fire, during the middle of a horse jumping competition.

"The organisers asked the rider to stop and to leave the arena. The next minute they had to bring the horses into the arena for safety purposes. They were being kept under the car park.

"The arena then filled up with smoke and got foggy.

"My daughter has autism and has been diagnosed with high anxiety. It was very difficult for her."

Michelle, from Ormskirk, says that she made an attempt to go to the car park to get to her car, a Ford Eco Sport, which was parked in the disabled bays on the second floor, but was told by a police officer to wait for an update.

Emily, who wants to be a vet, however, found the situation very distressing.

"My daughter was really traumatised, she was just crying and getting hysterical, and saying, 'All my stuff is in the car what are we going to do?' She gets very upset at things.

"I said 'Just try to stay calm.' I was trying to stay calm myself for her sake. You could see the car park. Every couple of seconds there was another explosion, obviously car tyres exploding, and then the sound of windows smashing.

"I thought it was best to take her away from there."

Michelle says that security staff at the arena closed the doors on her when she tried to return there.

However, she managed to get in by another door, which was lucky.

"I just had to get my daughter out of the situation because she is asthmatic as well and it was very smoky," she said.

"Her inhaler had been left in the car. It was also absolutely pouring down and we did not have any coats with us. We didn't expect something like that to happen."

After finally being told about 7pm that they wouldn't be getting their cars back, the mother and daughter made their way home by public transport.

Yesterday (Tuesday) they took delivery of a courtesy car arranged by her insurance company.

Michelle says the experience left her feeling "stressed and traumatised".

Michelle Pennington and her daughter Emily.

She said: "I would not like to live through that again. I think it will be a long time before I go back to a big venue like that. It was awful."

Fire services, who were first called to the incident at 4.40pm on New Years Eve, said the fire was started accidentally.

It was fully extinguished by 6pm on New Years Day.

No-one was seriously injured but many families who had travelled to Liverpool for the event were forced to spend New Year's Eve in a temporary shelter.

This was set up by Liverpool City Council at the Lifestyles Centre, in Toxteth.

Liverpool Mayor Joe Anderson has said there are lessons to be learned from the blaze.

The fire at the multi-storey carpark at King's Dock on New Years Day destroyed all of an estimated 1,400 cars that had been left there.

Youngsters learn about conflict

THE Year 6 class at St James' Catholic Primary School, in Ashusrt, Skelmersdale concluded their recent class history topic with a visit from a couple of people who have a passion with all things to do with World War 1.

Mrs Jenny Bell, Y6 class teacher said: "Mr and Mrs Taberner have both served in Afghanistan. They currently work as nurses but their passion is World War 1 and 2. They are new to visiting schools. However, they have a wealth of knowledge, resources and memorabilia to share with the children.

"They transformed the hall into an interactive museum. The children had the opportunity to handle weapons and kit from World War 1 and found out about the daily life of a soldier living in the trenches. Furthermore they discovered how a casualty would be treated on the battlefield and even had the chance to carry a stretcher through an obstacle course. A wonderful morning was had by all."

This couple came highly recommended after they had visited St Teresa's School in Up Holland.

Pupils learnt all about World War one

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Hotter staff members pack 1,000 pairs of shoes to donate to non-profit Soles4Souls

Shoe firm put best foot forward to help charity!

Report by **Henry James**

HOTTER, the UK's largest shoe manufacturer which is based in Skelmersdale, has stepped up to fight global poverty.

They have donated 1,000 pairs of new shoes to Soles4Souls- a non-profit social enterprise that creates sustainable jobs and provides relief to people in need through the distribution of shoes and clothing.

Through its disaster relief, free distribution and micro-enterprise programs, Soles4Souls has distributed more than 30 million pairs of new and used shoes in 127 countries since 2006.

"We are a strong supporter of Soles4Souls' mission and we hope the shoes we have sent will help them in their quest to disrupt the cycle of poverty around the globe," said Hotter CEO Sara Prowse.

The World Bank estimates tens of millions are at risk of infection from soil-transmitted parasitic diseases like hookworm, that can cause lasting suffering and lifelong debilitation.

Meanwhile many adults don't have access to sustainable employment.

"Our first donation of 1,000 pairs was packed by a team of 24 volunteers who swapped their desk jobs for an evening of packing shoes," said Sara. "We were packing 18 shoes per minute, which was a great achievement for colleagues who had spent a day at their desks before rolling up their sleeves and getting busy with shoes and boxes."

Hotter's donation was supported by shipping partner Hermes, who delivered the 48 boxes of shoes to Soles4Souls free of charge.

"We are so thankful for Hotter's generous support," said Buddy Teaster, president and CEO of Soles4Souls. "We believe that everyone deserves a good pair of shoes, and this donation will help us provide much-needed relief to many in need."

Concourse customers donate to foodbank

CUSTOMERS of the Concourse Subway were able to donate vital supplies for Skelmersale Foodbank based in the Ecumenical Centre.

Franchisee Simon Gould offered to be a drop off point in the run up to Christmas for the foodbank as a way of helping the community.

Mark Bainbridge, trustee of the foodbank said: "We are very grateful to Simon for providing this service for us and would like to thank all those who donated items for us."

Simon has also given vouchers for foodbank clients to receive a free Subway meal.

Skelmersdale and district Foodbank trustee Mark Bainbridge (left) and Subway franchisee Simon Gould with some of the food

Shoppers given helping hand with new seating

Report by **Kenny Parker**

VISITORS to Ormskirk town centre will be able to take a break from shopping on new benches!

The seating has been installed on Wheatsheaf Walk with the prospect of further seating being placed on Moor Street.

Our West Lancashire, which says the development is a consequence of a request it has made to the borough council, says that older and less mobile shoppers will benefit.

OWL Councillor for Derby Ward, Ian Davis, said: "I've been contacted by several older residents concerned about the lack of seating in the town centre.

"We've an aging population and for many older residents, Ormskirk is their main and only practical choice as a shopping centre.

"So, we've been in discussion with the council and I'm delighted that seating has already been installed at Wheatsheaf Walk and also that the council has committed to re-instating seating in Moor Street, close to the Disraeli statue after it was removed last year." Adrian Owens, also an OWL councillor for Derby Ward, said: "Without this seating, one lady told me that she simply could not visit one of her regular shops on Burscough Street because the walk was too far without a rest. She was so pleased when the seating was installed. In keeping our town centre busy, the council need to remember that making the shopping experience pleasant and free from stress is probably more important than lamp post banners and printed leaflets." Jane Thompson, OWL's Scott Ward spokesperson added that the next area for the council's attention must be the state of the paving in parts of the town centre's pedestrianised area, in particular Aughton Street.

A request for comment about plans for seating in the town centre has been made to West Lancashire Borough Council.

Councillors Adrian Owens (left) and Ian Davis with Jane Thompson at the new seating at Wheatsheaf Walk.

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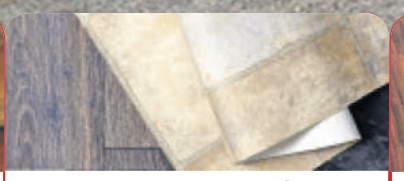

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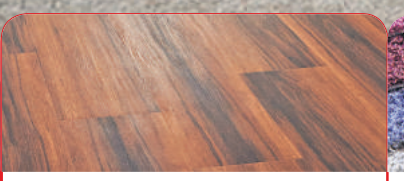

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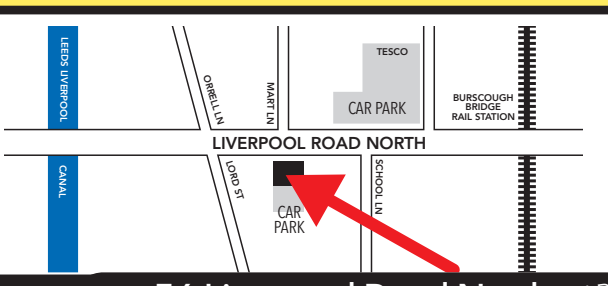

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Bishop of L'pool slams religious leaders who support Donald Trump

Report by **Tom Martin**

'Some things said by religious leaders collude with a system that marginalises the poor and builds walls instead of bridges'

THE Bishop of Liverpool has criticised American religious leaders who support President Donald Trump, saying they cannot justify their Christian faith.

Paul Bayes, who was appointed the Bishop of Liverpool in 2014, said some evangelical leaders were "uncritically accepting" of the controversial opinions of the President and his allies.

He went as far to say that it amounted to collusion with a system that "builds walls not bridges."

Mr Bayes has a diocese which stretches across West Lancashire and Sefton and north Liverpool to Widnes.

Donald Trump

Bishop of Liverpool Paul Bayes

In an interview with the Guardian, Mr Bayes said: "Some of the things that have been said by religious leaders seem to collude with a system that marginalises the poor, a system which builds walls instead of bridges, a system which says people on the margins of society should be excluded, a system which says we're not welcoming people any more into our country.

"Whenever people say those kinds of things, they need to be able to justify that they're saying those things as Christians, and I do not believe it's justifiable."

He was speaking to mark the launch of the Ozanne Foundation, a charity aimed at eliminating discrimination based on sexuality or gender.

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- Ofsted November 2017

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Improved bus services to be rolled out

BUS users in the borough can look forward to better transport links from early 2018, Lancashire County Council has claimed.

"Improved" services are due to begin in West Lancashire along with Lancaster, and Rossendale after the county council last year agreed to make an extra £1million available to support bus services, increasing the budget from £2m to £3m.

Many of the improved services began in December 2017, restoring lost links between rural communities, putting extra buses on routes where there is more demand, and helping to stabilise the network to support routes which might otherwise disappear.

But three more services are now on the way - two of them in places where the best solution to improving a local bus route was to work with local operators to extend existing commercial services rather than start a completely new route.

County Councillor Andrew Snowden, lead member for highways and transport, said: "Supporting a good public transport network is one of our key priorities as it helps our economy, widening access to opportunities for work and education. Buses also provide journeys for essential activities such as seeing friends and family, visiting the shops and attending vital appointments.

"These new buses add to all the improved services which began in December 2017, restoring even more public transport links to local communities. We've listened to what people have told us about the local need for these buses, and the difference they will make to their lives.

"I have been working with a number of my fellow county councillors who have put the case forward passionately for services to these three areas. Davis Morris MP has also contacted me numerous times on behalf of residents about the Lune Valley services."

From Monday, February 12 Lancashire County Council will operate a new Service 315 between Ormskirk, Haskayne, Halsall and Shirdley Hill, restoring a public transport link to the Shirdley Hill area which has not had a bus since a commercial service was diverted away from there in 2014.

The new service to be run by Holmeswood Coaches will provide a bus every two hours linking the villages to Ormskirk and Southport.

People can find out more about recently improved services by searching for 'bus improvements' at www.lancashire.gov.uk. Timetables for the new services starting in 2018 will be published on the website as soon as they are finalised.

Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire Ltd director Matt Sutton with County Councillor Andrew Snowden, lead member for highways and transport.

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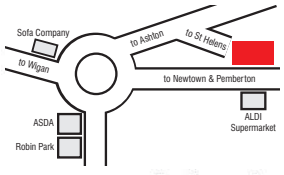

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Ofsted report bodes well for pupils

FIGURES from the latest Ofsted annual report show that the vast majority of Lancashire's children and young people continue to be taught in schools that are rated either good or outstanding.

The latest Ofsted statistics show that 94% of Lancashire's primary age pupils attend schools that have been judged to be good or outstanding, compared to the national average of 90% and the North West average of 92%.

77% of the county's pupils attend secondary schools that have been judged to be good or outstanding. This is slightly lower than the national average of 79% and but higher than the North West average of 71%.

Ofsted also rates the quality of early education in the county positively. Statistics show that 98% of three and four-year-old children benefit from good or outstanding provision in Lancashire's private, voluntary and independent providers and maintained nursery schools. Nationally the figure is 97%.

Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, County Councillor Susie Charles, said: "Educational performance in Lancashire continues to set a high standard in the region and compares well with the national average.

"I'm really proud of these results. They are a testament to the high quality of the teaching in our schools and the commitment of pupils and their families to learning. And they show that the overall standard of education in Lancashire is up there with the best in the region."

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Lancashire County Council funded a party for dementia sufferers and their families

Charity teams up with council to put on nostalgia party

LOCAL charity Age UK Lancashire are thanking the county council for helping them put on a special party for people living with dementia and their families.

The Christmas Nostalgia Event was held at the charity's Wellbeing Centre in Ormskirk.

Funded by Lancashire County Council's Community Wellbeing Fund, it was supported by local organisations who attended on the day and also supplied raffle prizes to support the charity's fundraising campaign, 'No one should have no one.'

The campaign highlights the negative impact loneliness has on people's health and well-being.

Abigail Ellis from the Dementia Community Links Team at Age UK Lancashire said:"We were delighted to be able to put on this event in Ormskirk.The atmosphere was really good and it was so special to see people enjoying a party with their loved ones whose lives are really stressful and difficult.

"We held a themed quiz as well as having a reminiscence table and memory tree. Many people with dementia keep their long terms memory so these activities are really special and allow people to remember growing up, which makes them happy".

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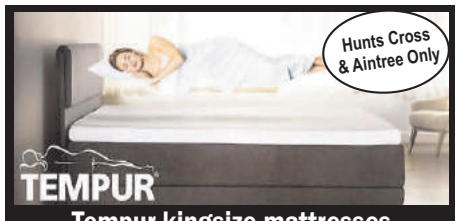

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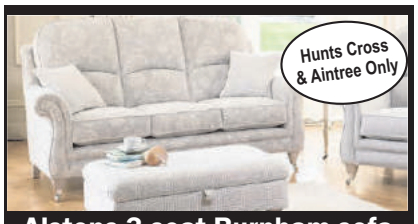

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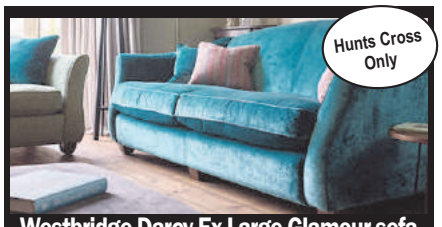

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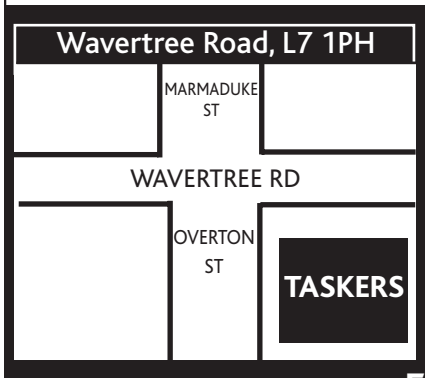

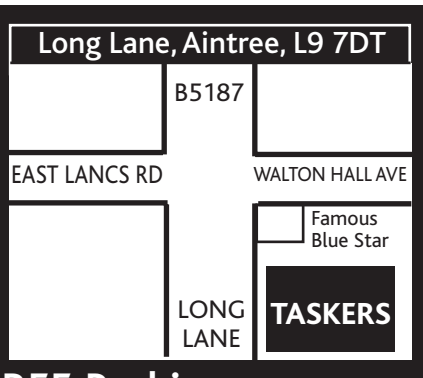

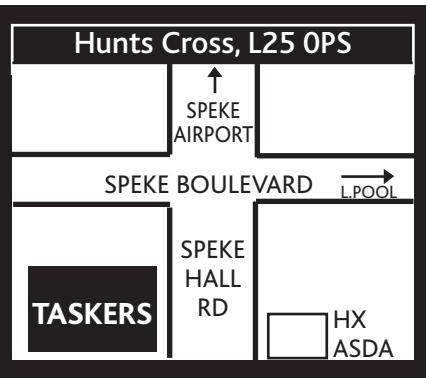

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
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Virgin doesn't care - when it comes to taking money from the NHS

In a recent letter to the Champion, Joe Welshe raised the fact that Richard Branson's Virgin Care had sued the NHS winning a massive sum because, it was claimed, his company had not won a contract in Surrey.

This is particularly worrying as all West Lancashire Community Care is contracted to Virgin Care. What happens here if they do not win the next contract when it comes up for tender? Another chance to sue the NHS?

It is understandable when much needed money for funding health care is withdrawn, that we all get angry at the cost to our NHS when billionaires sue it.

I agree with Joe - this is not Virgin Care it's more Virgin don't care.

Judy Ingman
(by email)

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to food collections...

The volunteers at Ormskirk Foodbank would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to our food collections this Christmas.

Thank you to the customers of Tesco in Burscough, the many schools, churches and other organisations who collected, and to the numerous individuals who came through the doors of New Church House with seasonal offerings.

We would also like to thank the staff of Tesco in Burscough for facilitating our collection there, and the staff of Ormskirk Fire Station who kindly helped with the transport and storage of goods.

As a result of everyone's generosity, we were able to provide for many individuals and families in need in our community this Christmas.

Ormskirk Foodbank is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am to 2pm at New Church House. Claimants require a voucher from one of our referral agencies. For further information visit:- www.ormskirk.foodbank.org.uk

Volunteers,
Ormskirk Foodbank

Shot cat report sickened me

What a sad, horrible story on the front page of The Champion, December 20, about a cat being shot with a pellet gun and having to have its leg amputated.

I'm not really a big animal lover, in fact I haven't had a pet for about twenty-five years, but this story sickened me to the core.

What kind of lowlife piece of rubbish takes a defenceless little animal and shoots it at close range? Bad enough to shoot it in passing but to actually go directly to it and even possibly hold it while shooting it is cruelty beyond belief.

Cruel and heartless only begin to describe my feelings for the perpetrator of such a heinous act.

I am though a great believer in what goes round comes round.

Peter Etherington
Skelmersdale

PICTURE of the week

Walkers enjoyed a last chance for a stroll along Southport Pier before its temporary closure (between Marine Lake Cafe and Ocean Plaza) to allow contractors to continue planned improvement works. Picture by Martyn Snape.

We need to act to stop town centres being turned into dormitories

The news just before Christmas that the Cancer Research UK shop in the Ormskirk town centre is to close, preparatory to conversion for student accommodation, will provide further ammunition to those who would blame students, rather than the greedy landlords who are cashing in on a growing market to line their own pockets, for the transformation of our town centre.

Surely the provisions of the 2010 Town and Country Planning Act, which has made this rezoning of property possible in the first place, need to be reassessed to avoid our town centres being turned into dormitories.

(Dr) Murray Steele
Ormskirk

21 plastic bags of dog poo counted on half mile walk in Aughton

My wife and I walked half-a-mile around St Michael's church in Aughton and we counted 21 plastic bags of dog excrement thrown into hedges and onto the verges.

The lazy dog walkers who do this are probably the same ones who furtively look around to see if anyone is watching before picking up the poo, and not bothering if they don't.

It would be better if they left the stuff where it was, at least it would degrade naturally, unlike the plastic bags.

Chris Taylor,
Aughton

Know your audience...

Regarding young singers and their perception of elderly people as all being a homogenous bunch, I thought the same when I was a lad.

I'm now nearly 67 years of age and I too was brought up with the music of the era and listened to Elvis, Buddy Holly, Frank Sinatra (via my brother's gramophone) Al Martino, and Bing Crosby via my dad.

However being a baby boomer and living in Liverpool I was a definite fan of the Mersey beat scene and all things pop like the Beatles, Gerry and the Pacemakers and I loved the Rolling Stones.

So, after all theses years, I now find myself singing to elderly people at various functions and events in Southport. And what do I play... songs that 60, 70 80 year-olds grew up with and love.

I'll sing Que Serra Serra, Sweet Caroline, then Please Please Me, maybe an Oasis number and definitely a Tom Jones song, and more.

I will sing Show Me The Way To Go Home, but I will also sing Lying Eyes by the Eagles and my audiences love the contrast.

The most requested song I play is Country Roads by John Denver and the average age of my audience is 75 -you work that out!

People love and remember music from their era, whenever that was. It's all about knowing you audience and giving them what they want. Assumptions can be dangerous.

Jeff the Singer

Protest outside travel agents drew attention to SeaWorld cruelty

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) organised a friendly leafletting session outside Thomas Cook's shop on Lord Street, Southport.

It was to draw attention to Thomas Cook promoting the marine-mammal parks of SeaWorld.

Marine mammals such as orcas are left to swim around in chemical tanks for visitors amusement. They suffer from extreme stress and physical injuries. The event took place on a bitter cold day, but it didn't prevent people stopping for leaflets and asking questions (many mistakenly thought animal cruelty like this and the zoo, circus and the fur trade were illegal in the UK).

It was a successful, polite demonstration highlighting the cruelty Thomas Cook are supporting.

A.J.M.
Southport

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

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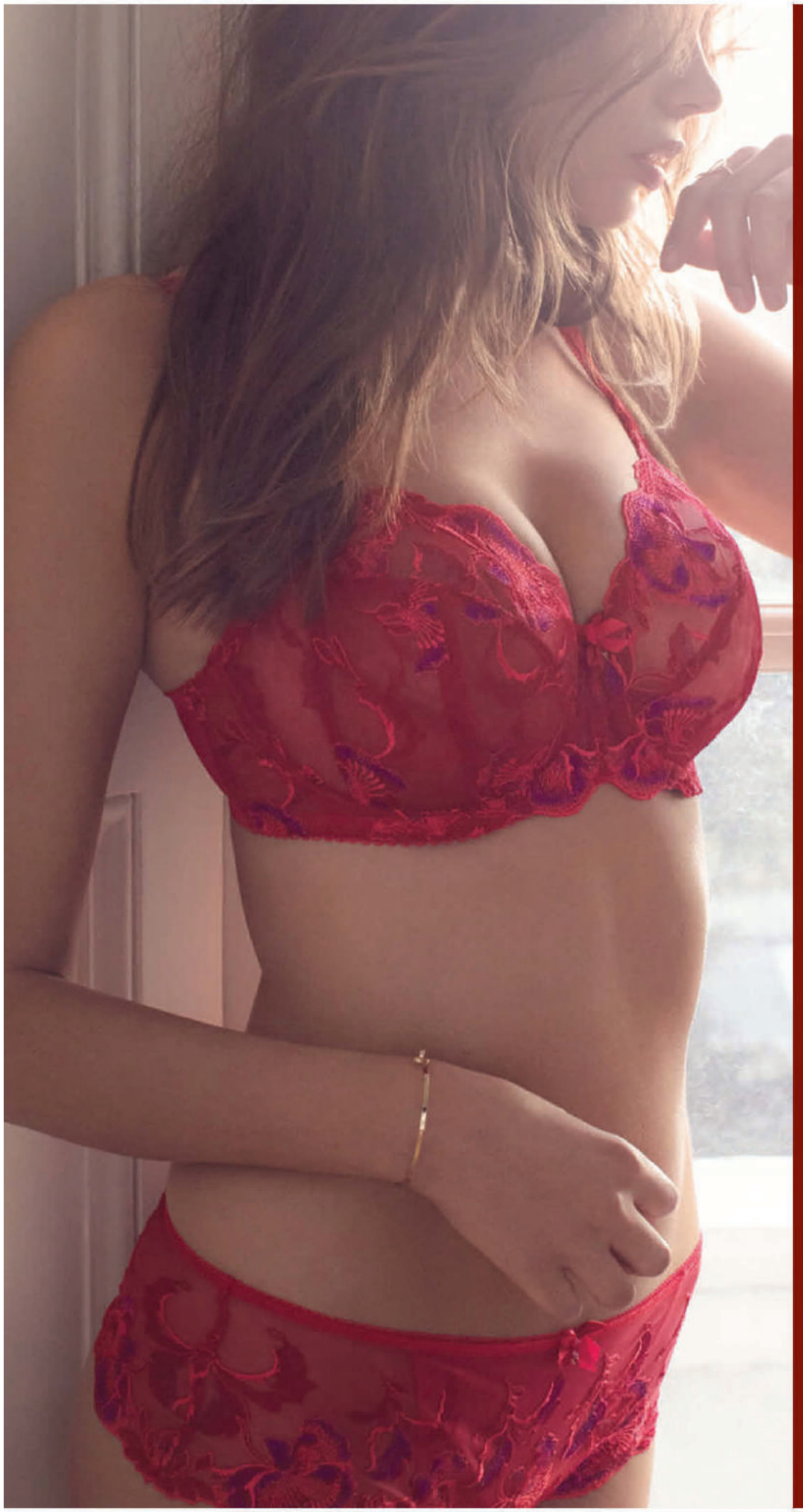

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Residents urged to have a say at council meetings

By **Henry James**

Councillor Ian Moran

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire have been urged to use their right to speak about important issues facing the council at meetings.

People living in West Lancashire have the chance to speak on certain agenda items at council meetings where important decisions are made that affect people across the borough.

In addition to those arrangements in place for speaking at Planning and Licensing Committees, there is also an opportunity to speak on items being considered at meetings of Cabinet, Audit & Governance Committee, Standards Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Some of the dates of forthcoming meetings are a Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on Thursday, January 4 at 7pm and a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 7pm.

Agendas for these meetings and others held in the future will usually be published on the council's website in the week preceding the meeting.

Due to the Christmas period however, the agenda for January's Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting and January's Cabinet were published on the Council's website on Thursday, December 21.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancashire Borough Council, said: "The council provides services for the benefit of people living in the borough of West Lancashire and the views of local people on those services are really important to us.

"Please take a look at the agendas for these meetings when they are online and let us know if you want to come and speak on any of the items listed."

To request to speak, members of the public must contact Member Services with their request by 10am on the Friday of the week preceding the relevant meeting.

For example a request to speak at the January Cabinet must reach the council by 10am on Friday, January 5.

The request can be submitted by email to member.services@westlancs.gov.uk or by writing to: Member Services, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, West Lancashire, L39 2DF.

Full details of the arrangements are provided in the council's Public Speaking Protocol which can be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk/speak

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Liz Downham with senior sister Marjorie Crottey at Ormskirk Neo-Natal Unit

Inner wheel club to support neo-natal unit

THE Inner Wheel Club of Southport will be supporting the Ormskirk Neo-Natal Unit as their charity for the year.

Club president Liz Downham recently gave a talk to the members and asked them to get busy with their knitting needles to make small caps, comfort squares and mini octopuses for the young patients on the neo-notal unit. Members will also raise funds throughout the year towards new incubators.

Their next fundraiser is a Bridge Drive on Friday, February 23 at Hesketh Golf Club. The cost for a table of four plus afternoon tea is £52. To book a table, call Janet Slinger on 07969 654085.

Post Office opening times clarification

IT was recently reported that the Post Office has restored services to Haskayne with the introduction of a new Hosted Outreach Service at Haskayne Village Hall in School Lane.

The postmaster from Burscough Bridge Post Office, who will operate the new Hosted Outreach Service, wishes to correct the opening times that were published.

The service will be provided every Monday between 11.15am and 1.15pm, not between 1.15pm and 3.15pm as previously reported.

A wide range of services are available at the new outlet and customers can collect benefits in cash using everyday banking services or a Post Office card account.

Russell's return to resort will bring back fond memories

Russell Watson

Interview by **Henry James**

CLASSICAL singer Russell Watson is no stranger to Southport and he will be returning to the town this February with his Canzoni d Amore concert.

Watson, who has sold seven million albums worldwide, can be seen at Southport theatre on Saturday, February 24.

He started singing in working men's clubs and is known as the People's Tenor. His first album called The Voice was released in 2000 and he became the first British artist to make number one in the US and UK classical charts.

The 51-year-old has many memories of Southport and ahead of his resort date, he told the Champion: "My Gran lived in Atherton and used to take me by train to Southport to the fairground. I remember going to the beach and the fair.

"One of the last times I sang in the town was for a big charity event and it was a fantastic night. We always have a good night there.

"Southport Theatre is not small enough to be intimate but not too big that you lose that connection with the audience. It is a bit like Leeds Grand theatre, which is a big theatre but you still feel the connection with the audience.

"When you do the bigger arenas, such as Manchester, and Birmingham, you can only connect with so many people as many of the audience are watching you on a big screen. However don't get me wrong though – there is nothing better than being out on stage at places such as Wembley Arena."

The tenor, who has twice overcome brain tumours, will be singing new material as well as songs from his last album True Stories. He commented on what audiences can expect: "In a time where there is a lot of negativity and the world is a volatile place, I hope people can come to one of my concerts to escape that and have a good night. Hopefully it will inspire some fond memories for the people who were there.

"We are going to put some new stuff in there. I am also going to sing the favourites as well such as Volare, You Raise Me Up, Nessun Dorma. They are the ones that everyone will be shouting for. Although you can't please everyone all the time.

"Many of the songs have been by my side for some time now. They have been part of my journey. Some of the pieces of music represent memories, some are good while others are not so good. Music can help you come through the good and the bad days.

"I like to keep things fresh. If the song does not bring a connection with the audience I lose it for a bit. I have been a recording artist for 17 years now, so I have a big back catalogue to choose from.

"One of my favourites is Intermezzo, which is used in the film Raging Bull. My Gran used to play it and she introduced me to it. Whenever I hear Intermezzo I think of her. At the concert there will be a string section, a grand piano, a percussionist, a guitarist and a choir of between 40 and 50 people."

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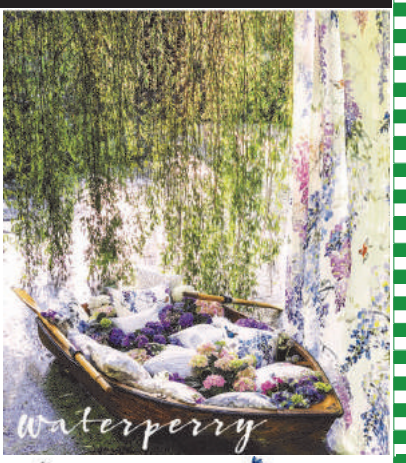

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Members of Sporting Challenge.

Charity celebrates cash boost after wave of donations

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A LOCAL charity that provides sports activities for people with learning disabilities in West Lancashire is celebrating after receiving nearly £4,000 worth of donations.

Registered charity Sporting Challenge was set up in 2008 by a group of parent carers to provide sporting activities for around 45 people with learning disabilities from across West Lancashire, to keep them fit and healthy.

The activities take place across the borough during the evening and sometimes at weekends.

The charity has been given a boost after receiving £500 from the Peter Lathom Charity to fund various aspects of its work.

They have also received £1,100 from the Lancashire County Council Disability Champion Councillor Peter Steen and £1,000 from Councillor Mark Perks, the county's Champion for Youth. In addition, the organisation has received £350 from the Barchester Charitable Foundation for a coach or barge trip, and a further £1,000 from the Trefoil Charity to go towards sessions for younger members aged 16-22 years of age.

Members of the group also did their bit by carol singing at Booths supermarket in December and raising £21.23.

Edward McCarthy, Sporting Challenge Activities Co-ordinator, said: "These funding awards are fantastic news and will help fund our activities for our ever increasing number of members.

"The various funding awards will help fund the groups' activities in the year ahead and will be used for different purposes."

For more information on Sporting Challenge Activities visit www.sporting-challenge.org.uk.

Alternatively, contact Edward on 07971 299 606 or by email EdwardatEMSS@gmail.com.

Warning over schemes to avoid care home fees

A WEST Lancs legal firm is urging people to think twice about schemes designed to protect homes from care fees.

Dickinson Parker Hill, located in Ormskirk, says that the average annual cost of a stay in a care home now stands at £30,000, and £40,000 for a nursing home.

Currently the general rule is that if you have more than £23,250 in assets, you are required to pay for your own care.

As a means of protecting their assets from being sold off to pay for care costs, Michael Prendergast, a partner at Dickinson Parker Hill, says families have been encouraged to sign up for asset trust schemes. However, many of these schemes are run by unregulated companies with unqualified staff, he says, and do not actually offer the protection they promise.

The lawyer said: "There have been numerous proposals to reform this area over the last few years but, so far, none have been put into effect and we remain in the situation where if you have assets, generally speaking, you are expected to pay for your own care. In certain circumstances assets, like your home, can be disregarded depending on your personal circumstances.

"As a result of the potentially high care and nursing fees, many people are lured into arrangements that are aggressively marketed by unregulated companies with unqualified staff. They often give the impression they are qualified to provide legal advice but in reality they are not. Many people often end up paying thousands of pounds for new wills and trusts which are totally unnecessary and, in many cases, do not end up protecting property or assets from care fees.

"There are steps that can be taken to help protect assets but they need to be fully explained and dealt with by a qualified legal professional."

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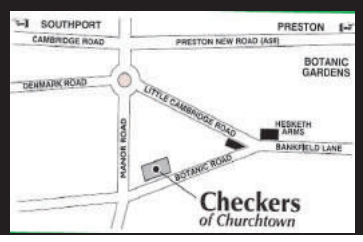

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Got a story for the Champion? Call our news desk on 01704 392 400

Sight loss charity want new members to join them for series of events in January

MEMBERS of a sight-loss charity are appealing for new members to join them for a wide variety of events that they are holding throughout January.

Galloway's Society for the Blind, based on Wright Street in Southport, support more than 6,500 blind and partially sighted residents across West Lancashire and Southport. They provide specialist training, teach Braille and hold information days, which enable them to demonstrate some of the latest innovations in technology, resources and services available.

Members of the public can call into their Wright Street base on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 9.30am and 4:30pm or on Tuesdays or Thursdays by appointment only.

The Ormskirk Visually Impaired Group will meet at the Parish Church from noon-2pm on Thursdays, January 11, January 18 and January 25, while the Southport Visually Impaired Group will meet at Lord Street West Church from 10am-noon on Tuesdays, January 9 and January 23.

The Southport groups will be running bingo session from 1pm-2.30pm on the following Wednesdays: Today (January 3), January 10, January 17, January 24 and January 31.

They are holding Braille sessions from 10am-11am, for Sefton residents only, arranged through Social Services on the following Fridays: January 5, January 12, January 19 and January 26.

They are holding craft mornings from 10am-noon on Mondays: January 8, January 15, January 22 and January 29.

Quizzes will be held from 1.30pm-2.30pm on Monday, January 8 and Monday, January 22 and games afternoons will run from 1.30pm-2.30pm on Mondays, January 15 and January 29.

Shopping

They are also running a session on how to use the internet to stay in touch and order shopping, from 10am-3pm on Tuesday, January 9 and a woodwork session (tools and wood provided) from 10.30am-2pm on Friday January 19.

A 'swinging arts' music session is planned from 10am-noon on Friday, January 12; a book club from 1-2pm and ten pin bowling (at Premier Bowl and Laser at the Ocean Plaza) from 1-3pm, all on Friday, January 12.

The group are welcoming all Sefton and West Lancs residents to join them on some or all of their activities and trips out. For more information, call 01704 534555.

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Staff with the food and gifts they bought

Care home staff give boost to foodbank by saving money on cards!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

STAFF at a care home hit upon a way to help a local foodbank at Christmas time without it putting an extra burden on their pockets.

Abbey Wood Lodge, on County Road, Ormskirk, has 83 staff members on its pay roll and rather than send each other Christmas cards and gifts this year the staff all agreed to donate food and gifts instead to Digmoor Foodbank, based at the Evermoor Hub in Skelmersdale, which was running a Christmas appeal. Home manager Sharon Hall said it was the first year they had undertaken the initiative and it won't be the last.

She said: "We were all really proud of what we achieved, and I was really proud of the staff.

"Sometimes we forget what Christmas is all about as we get all tied up with giving gifts. We forget about people less fortunate than ourselves." Digmoor Foodbank provides emergency essential supplies of food, nappies, cleaning and personal care products to residents of West Lancashire who are suffering hardship.

Singletons needed for Blind Date!

WEST Lancs singletons are being urged to apply for the next series of the iconic TV show, Blind Date.

A spokesperson for the show said: "Are you single? Are you looking for love? Do you know someone who is? Let us help you to find love! We are coming back for more fun in 2018 off the back of the first returning series with Paul O'Grady being a huge success.

"With that in mind, we are looking for more single people across the UK again to be a part of the show in 2018 and are appealing for Sefton residents to apply!

"Our closing date for applications is Sunday, January 14. Please apply by calling 0207 157 3328 or emailing BlindDate@sotelevision.co.uk."

The Men-Aces on their Santa dash

Santa Dash is more like a stroll due to ice!

BEFORE Christmas Skem Men-Aces disability football team endured the icy cold conditions for their seventh annual Santa Dash.

The Men-Aces met at Skelmersdale College wearing their Christmas attire and carrying tins and packets of food to donate to Digmoor Community Centre.

Even though all health and safety measures were put in place, the team decided to take a slower approach and walk or lightly job instead of dash!

Mim Eaton, one of the coaches at Skem Men-Aces, said: "The team were a fine sight to see, and added a splash of colour to an otherwise dark, cold grey day.

"2017 has been a very busy, exciting and rewarding year for the Men-Aces, and we have travelled many miles. The team always smile, and they have raised awareness and funds for many plights and good causes. We would like to thank all Champion readers for all their support and hope they enjoyed the festive season."

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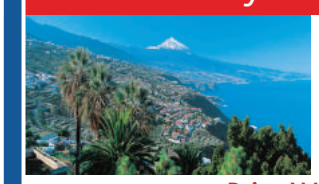

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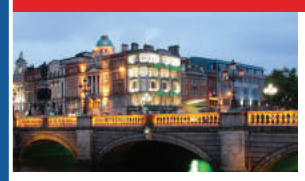

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Pharmacist warns about buying slimming pills online

A SKELMERSDALE pharmacist has warned January crash dieters against buying potentially fatal slimming pills online.

Shamir Patel, who runs online pharmacy Chemist-4-U.com, says the new year brings hundreds of enquiries from those desperate to lose weight in West Lancashire.

According to figures from the Health Survey for England, as many as 26% of adults in Skelmersdale are obese.

With many looking to shed festive weight Mr Patel has issued a warning over "quick fix" diet pills sold illegally on websites.

Mr Patel, a registered pharmacist, said: "The new year brings new resolutions, including many people looking to get fit and lose weight.

"Obesity is a big problem and it's absolutely essential people are encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle and to keep their weight in check.

"But a recent study has shown one in three dieters have tried slimming pills from unregulated sources online.

"People need to be incredibly careful who they trust, as diet pills with banned ingredients can have potentially fatal consequences."

Last month the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said pills sold online could contain withdrawn pharmaceutical ingredients linked to heart attacks and strokes. A survey said three quarters of slimmers ordered online because they didn't want to speak to a GP or pharmacist.

More than half were attracted by being able to buy the pills discreetly.

In the last four years almost £4million worth of potentially dangerous weight loss pills have been seized.

The pills are not tested for safety and some have been found in 'dirty, rat-infested warehouses and garden sheds', the MHRA said.

Mr Patel addeed: "Diet pills should always be bought from a regulated source. Don't rely on places where it can't be guaranteed what your pills contain."

NHS Trust up for award after launching legal advice scheme

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust has been shortlisted for the iNetwork and Innovation Awards for its Knowledge and Legal Advice Centre (KnowLA) Initiative.

The project has been commended for the Connected Procurement and Commissioning Awards.

The Trust is one of four organisations shortlisted for demonstrating outstanding success and achievement in public procurement and commissioning.

The Trust undertook a review of its approach to engaging with external legal services.

The outcome identified that there was an inconsistent approach to obtaining legal advice and how this information was utilised and shared within the organisation.

Following the review and to ensure that the Trust was delivering an effective and efficient approach, the Trust began to develop a centralised process for recording, monitoring and collating all legal advice which was supported by legal firm Ward Hadaway.

The Knowledge and Legal Advice Centre (KnowLA) aimed to:

- Reduce spend on legal advice
- Reduce unnecessary repetition of advice
- Speed up solutions to legal issues and share knowledge and best practice
- Free up clinicians' time by providing quick and easy access to a repository of advice

Julie-Ann Bowden, associate director of Risk and Assurance at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust said: "We are so proud to be shortlisted for this award and to be recognised for our innovative KnowLA project. We have worked hard to create a system that works to reduce duplication and the time taken to address issues and make decisions.

Julie-Ann Bowden of the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

"Here at Lancashire Care people are at the heart of everything we do. By creating KnowLA we have supported our staff in being able to spend more time on patient care, as well as enabling legal queries to be dealt with quicker.

"The ambition of the initiative was to help managers across the organisation to access the information they need, at the touch of a button and I feel we have definitely achieved this with KnowLA.

"It's a privilege to have our work recognised by the iNetwork and we are really looking forward to meeting and learning from fellow shortlisted nominees!"

The winners will be announced at the prestigious iNetwork Innovation Awards Ceremony and Dinner on the evening of January 30 in Manchester.

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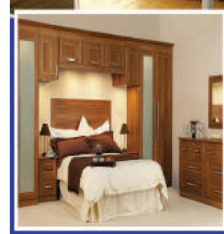

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Ink regretters can now sign up to next series of Tattoo Fixers show

PRODUCERS of a TV show which provides 'cover-up' designs for tattoo regretters are appealing for any West Lancs residents who wish they had never been inked to get in touch.

The casting team for E4's hit show, Tattoo Fixers are currently looking for people that need help for the new series which will start filming in London from next month.

A spokesperson for Tattoo Fixers said: "We are back for a fifth series and looking for the country's most shocking, outrageous and embarrassing tattoos that need fixing. Participants will get the chance to have a regrettable tattoo covered up by one of our top ink artists, whose transformations of ugly tats into works of art leave participants speechless.

"So far the show has seen misspelt phrases, ex's names and even soap star lookalikes cropping up in in the pop up parlour in East London.

"The last series even saw one woman ask for TV host Noel Edmunds to be tattooed on her leg! We also want to hear from people planning on getting a new tattoo who have fun or interesting reasons behind wanting one."

Anyone who is interested in taking part in the show can apply at studiolambert.com

One of the regretted tattoos that was 'fixed' on the show with a cover-up

Heritage group to hold talk on the area's rich mining history

BURSCOUGH Hertiage Group are hosting a presentation about the coal mines of Skelmersdale and the surrounding areas for their first meeting of the new year.

The ilustrated talk will be given by former mine surveyor, Doug Elliot, at The Blue Mallard on Burscough Wharf on Monday January 8 for a 7.30pm start.

Doug started his working life in the South Yorkshire coal fields before moving to Lancashire where he was involved in preparing maps for Newburgh, Parbold and Scarisbrick. In the process, he became aware of the extensive mining in the eastern part of West Lancashire, centred around Skelmersdale but extending as far as Bickerstaffe and parts of Parbold. He also discovered the site of Newburgh Colliery opposite the village post office.

Everyone is welcome to attend the presentation. Entrance is by £2 voluntary donation to Burscough Heritage Group.

For more information call Colin Wareing on 07931 356204.

New care home to create 120 jobs

MORE than 120 jobs will be created by the opening of a new 80-bed care home in Southport in the spring.

Athena Health Care Group, which runs Parklands Lodge in Southport, Abbey Wood Lodge in Ormskirk and Woodlands Lodge in Formby, are opening Hesketh Park Lodge on Albert Road in March. Earlier this year, the care group launched the Community Activities Hub to unite older people's services and groups and recently launched their new initiative, Care Awareness for the Younger Generation. Staff will be working with local schools, nurseries and colleges to help younger visitors feel more at ease when at a care home where people are living with dementia.

Gayle Turner, the new care home manager said: "We are looking forward to opening Hesketh Park Lodge in the heart of the local community with the offer for local carers to be a part of and experience our vision."

Lesley Malone, events organiser for the Athena group added: "For me personally, caring is a vocation and the homes have a real team feeling. Come to join us and be a part of the Athena family."

For more information or to apply for a job, call Gayle Turner on 07495614747.

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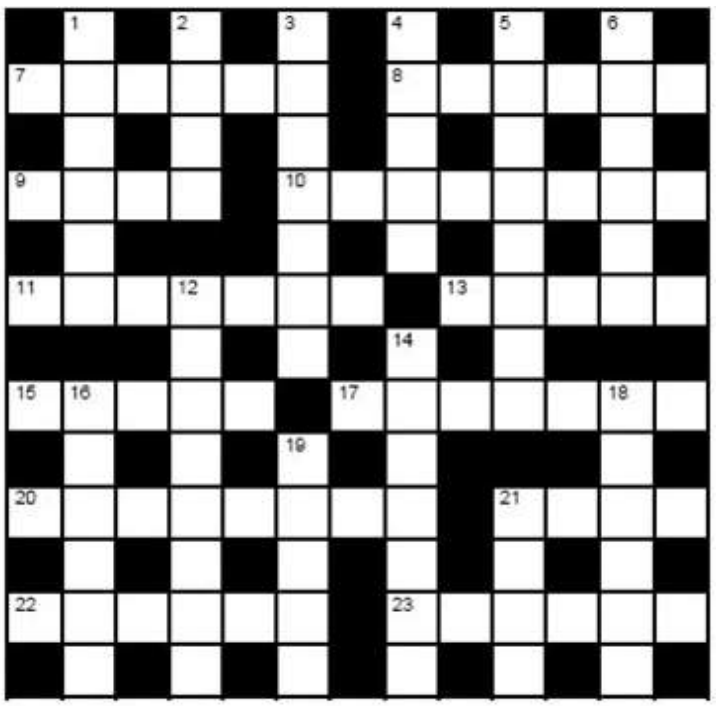

Week 51 solutions:
Across: 7. Silent. 8. Ethnic. 9. Giro. 10. Outbreak. 11. Tubular. 13. Solid. 15. Acrid. 16. Piquant. 18. Bean curd. 19. Lick. 21. Hansom. 22. Italic.
Down: 1. Kiwi. 2. Revolutionise. 3. Ottoman. 4. Berth. 5. Thermonuclear. 6. Riparian. 12. Uncle Sam. 14. Disdain. 17. Burma. 20. Chin.

Please note that last week's Champion crossword contained an incorrect grid. We have therefore repeated last week's clues with the correct grid. We apologise for any confusion involved.

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ACROSS

7. An unexpected and inexplicable change in a situation or someone's behaviour (6)
8. Men's neckwear item (6)
9. Lower part of a person's or animal's cheek, especially when fleshy or drooping (4)
10. Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone who is not their spouse (8)
11. Men's or boys' underpants with a branching seam at the front (1-6)
13. Fourth letter of Greek alphabet (5)
15. Near to (5)
17. Nickname of Arsenal FC (7)
20. Infinite or unending time (8)
21. A small sheltered bay (4)
22. Plane round figure (6)
23. Cause to feel upset, annoyed, or resentful (6))

DOWN

1. Remote in time or space (3-3)
2. The hindmost part of an animal (4)
3. A line of hereditary rulers of a country (7)
4. Method of re-starting play in rugby after a knock-on (5)
5. All the gods of a people or religion collectively (8)
6. Orange-coloured root vegetable (6)
12. Get in the way of (8)
14. Enclosure within a courtroom (4, 3)
16. Do something vigorously or without restraint (3, 3)
18. A deep, narrow gorge with steep sides (6)
19. Device that makes a loud prolonged signal or warning sound (5)
21. The end part of a sleeve (4)

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So what have the two men to offer that is so different from other retailers and why do their customers keep recommending them? The first important reason is simply 40 plus years experience in the kitchen industry from the pair. They are also able to take on a brief and develop it fully thanks to highly trained technicians who will always go that extra mile to ensure each job is delivered on time and within the budget agreed.

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Paul and Brian are also introducing new concepts with the opening of an additional showroom with a very new and clever concept of a Cook Centre designed for you to try new appliances and see exactly what your kitchen will benefit from before you purchase. Another assurance of a guarantee of quality from this innovative company.

It's no wonder that Cygnet Kitchens has achieved over 80% of their new business from recommendations by happy customers and as Paul points out: 'This is probably the most important thing in what we do, 100% customer satisfaction is the very thing we strive to deliver and the best advert you can have.

Phase one of our additional new showroom is now complete, phase two is underway with an exclusive range of German kitchens by Schüller (kitchens for life)... Watch this space!... It pays to consider Cygnet Kitchens if you are looking for a new kitchen or bedroom. Why not have a chat with Paul or Brian today?

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Welder loses six stone ahead of his wedding

Report by **Henry James**

WHEN Ormskirk welder Phillip Murphy joined Slimming World to lose a couple of stone for his wedding, he never dreamed it would set him on the path to a complete lifestyle overhaul.

The 35-year-old has lost six stone with Slimming World, which took him from a 48 to a 38 inch waist. He's now looking forward to a healthy and happy 2018 as a new man.

He said: "I had always been big and used to play up to the role of the happy jolly big man, cracking jokes that it was ok as I wear boiler suits to hide the love handles.

"I always insisted I was happy being 21 stone and never admitted how unhappy I was with my weight. I had tried losing weight before but always got fed up feeling deprived and gave up.

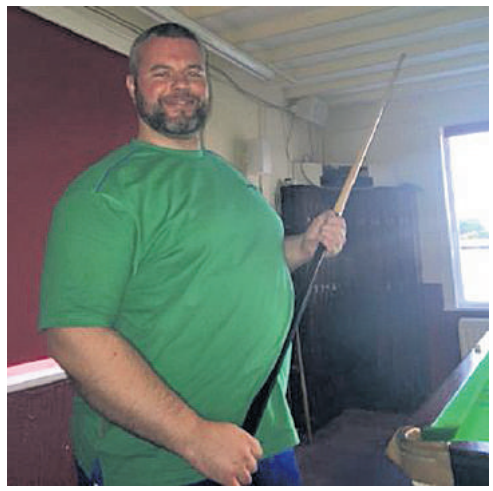
"My wife, who had been a member of Slimming World in a West Lancashire group for a while and lost quite a bit of weight, suggested I give it a go as it had always worked for her. Originally I said I'd go just to lose a stone or two and I'd be going 'back to normal' after our February 2017 wedding. But once I got started, I was hooked."

Phillip reached his dream target weight of 15 stone in August. He has maintained his weight since and is now a regular at the gym.

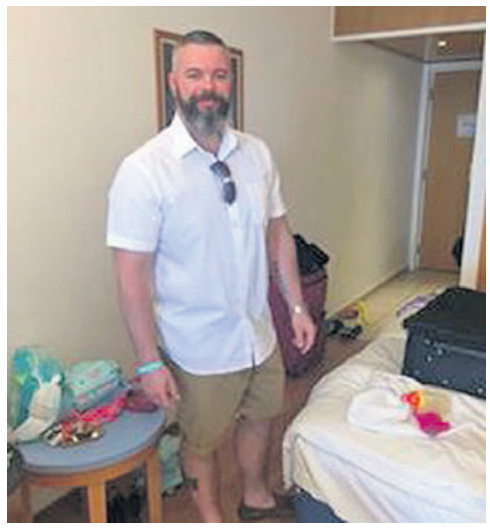
He added: "I felt quite emotional when I reached the target, I wish I had done it years ago.

"All the aches and pains I used to feel have gone. The help, support and ideas you get from the group are amazing. I now love cooking up a storm in the kitchen, my roast dinner is legendary. I love it when we invite people round for dinner parties.

"Meals out are no problem either, I just choose plenty of grilled meat with a jacket potato and sides of salad or veg, instead of fried foods covered in creamy sauces."



Phil before (above) and after his weight loss



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Charity to tackle loneliness

A CHARITABLE organisation which provides support for communities looking to take ownership of their local pubs, shops or other amenities, has launched a campaign to help combat loneliness.

The Plunkett Foundation, which works primarily in rural areas, wants to make sure that people's good deeds are not limited to the festive season and is encouraging people not to forget the lonely during January.

The charity says that loneliness is a very common but often ignored problem amongst many sectors of society, yet health professionals say it's as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and worse than obesity. Britain, it says, has been ranked European capital for loneliness.

The campaign, #thelittlethings is encouraging as many people as possible to give a small amount of time for people who may be suffering in silence with loneliness.

Head of Engagement Harriet English said: "Whether it's young parents struggling to get out of the house with a new born, people working from home and not seeing anyone all day, or those with long-term health issues – there are a lot more lonely people out there than you think.

"Our campaign is simple: do something little to reach out to someone who is on their own and think about how a community co-operative could reduce loneliness in your community."

Further suggestions on how you can help a lonely person can be found on the website www.plunkett.co.uk/thelittlethings.

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

Council set for funding boost to warm homes during winter

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council is providing £500,000 to local district councils to help reduce deaths caused by cold homes this winter.

The money, which is part of the Green Energy Fund, and a share of which will be given to West Lancashire Borough Council, will be used to help people who struggle to afford to keep their homes warm and will be targetted towards those at greatest risk of their health being affected by the cold.

These include people living with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions, mental health conditions, older people, people with disabilities, pregnant women and parents with young children.

The amount available to each district varies depending on the percentage of homes classed as being in fuel poverty in each area.

In West Lancashire 9.8% of households are said to be living in fuel poverty.

That amounts to 7.6% of households across the county, making the borough eligible for £37,764 from the fund.

This is the second winter the Green Energy Fund has been running in Lancashire.

Last year's success

Last year, the scheme supported 740 people county-wide to help keep their home warm with measures such as heating repairs, replacement boilers and heating systems, first-time central heating installation and draught proofing and insulation.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "This funding is designed to help those who are more likely to have their health put at risk because they live in a cold home.

"Figures from 2014/15 show there were 992 excess winter deaths in Lancashire, with conditions affected by the cold generally accounting for almost three quarters of these.

"Also, unplanned hospital admissions linked to respiratory conditions are typically between 20 and 50% higher in the winter months.

"Making sure people have warm homes is crucial.

"We have provided the funding to district councils, who will manage the scheme in each area and ensure help is given to those who need it most."

The county council says that a housing standard team at West Lancashire Borough Council will identify those at risk because of the condition of their home and through information received from other local partners.

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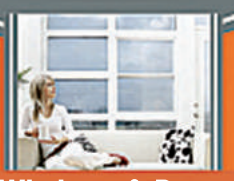

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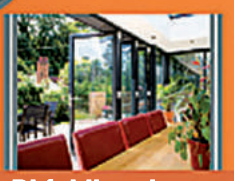

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Slimming expert's top tips to make that weight loss resolution stick

Slimming World Team Developer and award winning Slimming World Consultant of over 24 years Tina Whewell offers some of her slimming expertise to guarantee any good intentions of becoming slimmer, fitter and healthier in 2018 falling to bits in the face of real-life challenges and setbacks. Tina says "With our tried-and-tested plan and some really durable slimming strategies, you'll fix your resolve through January, and beyond"...

Bond with your group... What's been the common denominator for all the times you've made a New Year's resolution to lose weight…and never quite got going? The likely answer is that you've tried to do it with little or no support. Going to group could be the change that makes the difference.

'That first step towards joining group can be frightening,' says Tina. 'Once you get past your fears, though, you won't regret it. There is so much that going to group regularly brings to your weight-loss journey,' adds Tina. 'From the very first night you'll meet members who have had amazing weight losses to inspire you.'

Eat your fill... If there's one thing that's guaranteed to doom a New Year's weight-loss resolution, it's being hungry. Feeling ravenous is never fun; not least in the long, cold winter months.

One of the first things you'll discover at group is that you never have to go hungry to make a difference to the number on the scales.' says Tina.

Free Food is naturally lower in calories and filling, so you can enjoy it in unlimited amounts, whenever you want.

Focus on the foods you love... Tina adds, make a list of all your favourite meals – no matter how unlikely you think it is that they're on plan. Then prepare to be amazed at how many of them you can have!

'There's no cutting out whole food groups in Food Optimising, which helps members to enjoy a healthy, balanced diet right from those first few weeks of weight loss.
Often, all it takes is a change to the way you cook, such as avoiding the deep-fat fryer to cook your home-made chips and instead baking them using low-calorie cooking spray

Remind yourself why...There are many reasons for resolving to lose weight. Maybe you're out of puff after running round with the kids, or you're fed up that your clothes are too tight. 'Whatever your reason, it's essential that you never lose sight of it,' says Tina. 'That's going to be one of your greatest weight-loss weapons. Especially when you're having a wobble.'

It's at those moments that it can help to carry with you a small, physical reminder of the reason (or reasons) why you want to be slim. It could be anything – perhaps an old photo of yourself, a photo of your kids, or a piece of paper with your motivation for slimming written on it.

Enjoy your treats...Remember that feeling as a kid when your mum told you not to touch something expensive? Inevitably, you just had to touch it – and the same psychology applies when you're told not to eat something. 'That's why, at Slimming World, no foods are banned,' says Tina.

' Enjoying your treats ensures you never feel deprived.' And it's entirely up to you what you use them on, from topping your burger with ketchup (1 Syn per level tbsp), to sipping on a half of 4-6% lager (6 Syns). The less you feel like you're 'on a diet', the more likely you are to stay with your new healthier habits for good.

Celebrate every step...The achievements of increasing weight loss and changed behaviour are not to be underestimated. 'In our slimming World groups, we celebrate every half-stone lost, which absolutely cements the commitment members have made to changing their lifestyles,' says Tina. 'And achieving all those milestones helps to keep you going, too.'

There are lots of awards to aim for and becoming your group's 'Slimmer of the week', 'Slimmer of the month' or 'Greatest Loser' can be real motivation boost. Of course, the greatest reward of all is when you step on the scales and realise you've hit your target and achieved your resolution. So get into the slimming groove and you're sure to make 2018 your year!

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Siobhan is 'Inspired' by Slimming World

West Lancashire slimmer Siobhan Horder is looking forward to the 'New Year' more than ever before after losing 4 stone 7lb with her local Slimming World Group.

The 25 year old joined Slimming World last New Year because her sister was getting married and had asked her to be her bridesmaid. I wanted to feel more comfortable and confident and thought I might lose 1 stone!
This summer at the wedding Siobhan had lost 31/2 stone! I felt fabulous and enjoyed every minute of the day instead of hiding away from all the attention and feeling miserable.

Siobhan says "I was really looking forward to this Christmas and finally feeling glamorous enough to wear the outfits I always dreamed. When I was bigger I was really unhappy. I didn't like what I saw when I looked in the mirror. I hated shopping for clothes and felt self conscious most of the time. Things are completely different Snow and I feel so much more confident than I used to. I feel like my life is completely transformed"

She adds, "I love going to group! Everyone is so friendly and I've made some great friends. It's my time for me and really helps me to stay motivated. I love swapping different recipes and ideas. There's lots going on in the group so it's always lots of fun. My Consultant has been so supportive and is always at the end of the phone if I need her."

After joining Slimming World, Siobhan began following the club's Food Optimising healthy eating plan and was amazed to discover that she didn't have to give up her favourite meals.

"Like most people I have a busy life so it's important for me to find meals I can make quickly and also that the rest of my family can enjoy. I can do all of that on Slimming World. Our favourite is Lasagne! I still eat out too - I just make healthier choices like having pasta with a tomato and vegetable sauce instead of meals that are fried or covered in creamy sauces or dressings."

SIOBHAN'S DAILY MENU
Breakfast: Weetabix
Lunch: Jacket Potato & beans, apple & satsuma
Dinner: Beef Stew done in slow cooker with vegetables, Hifi cereal bar
Snacks: fruit, yogurts, Hifi cereal bars

So, if you want to be Slimmer, happier and healthier like Siobhan in 2018, please see the advertisement attached for local group details

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*when you buy a 12-week Countdown 24th Dec 2017 – 20th Jan 2018

plus new week-by-week weight loss planner

MONDAY

LYDIATE
Lydiate Village Centre, Lambshear Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
11am & 1pm
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), **Aintree Lane**
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), **Aintree Lane**
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

NEW VENUE

TUESDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

NEW VENUE

WEDNESDAY

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

NEW VENUE

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), **Long Ln**
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Hayley: 07583 762529

FRIDAY

NEW GROUP starting 12 Jan

ORMSKIRK
Base Dance Academy
Malthouse Business Park
Southport Rd
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close (Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Hayley: 07583 762529

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School,
Aughton Street, Ormskirk
10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
Saturday 9am & 11am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Top violinist and pianist to perform in village

DOUGLAS Music, Parbold, is presenting Jack Liebeck (violin) and Katya Apekisheva (piano) who will performing in the Auditorium in the Village Hall on Saturday, January 13 at 7.45 p.m.

Born in London, Jack Liebeck is one of the most compelling violinists on today's concert platform. Jack is acclaimed for his "beguiling silvery tone" and first came to fame in 2002 with his debut CD of music by Fritz Kreisler, accompanied by Katya Apekisheva.

He and Katya will be playing some of Kreisler's romantic melodies in the Viennese style and popular, major works by Schubert and Debussy.

Jack has performed recitals all over the world. In 2010, he won a Classical Brit. He was soloist on the romantic, intriguing and original scores composed by Dario Marianelli for the films Jane Eyre and Anna Karenina (2013).

Jack is Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music. Born in Moscow, Katya Apekisheva is a prize-winning international concert soloist as well as an admired accompanist and chamber musician.

Katya studied at the world-renowned Gnessin Music School in Moscow. Katya is one of Europe's renowned pianists, performing internationally as a soloist and as a chamber musician. Since becoming a prize-winner in the Leeds International and Scottish Piano Competitions and collecting awards such as the London Philharmonic Soloist of the Year and the Terence Judd Award, she is regarded as a pianist of exceptional gifts.

A limited number of stand-by tickets are always available at the Box Office on the evening of the concert.

For more information log on to www.parbold-douglasmusic.org; E-mail: tickets@parbolddouglasmusic.org; Telephone: 01257 498452 (booking answerphone).

Tour dates announced

THE League of Gentlemen will return to the stage in 2018 for their first UK tour in over 12 years with their new live show 'The League of Gentlemen Live Again!'

The tour will see BAFTA Award winning comedy legends Reece Shearsmith, Steve Pemberton, Mark Gatiss and Jeremy Dyson bring their dark and unhinged fictional village of Royston Vasey to theatres and arenas across the country.

The critically acclaimed black comedy which originally ran from 1999 – 2002 on BBC Two, also returned to the television screens this Christmas to celebrate 20 years since the show began with three special episodes.

The show will be at Liverpool Echo Arena on Sunday, September 16.

Reece Shearsmith, Steve Pemberton, Mark Gatiss and Jeremy Dyson said: "The League of Gentlemen started as a live show over 20 years ago and in many ways performing in front of an audience gives us the biggest thrill of all."

TIMEWELL'S .co.uk

Short Breaks & Holidays

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Mon 9th April
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*Full day trip Snowdonia

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*Full day exc Snowdonia
*Welsh Highland Railway
*Full day exc Barmouth

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Sat 16th June £619 (8 days)
Sat 14th July £639 (8 days)
Sat 25th August £609 (8 days)
Sat 29th Sept £519 (8 days)
Mon 12th Nov £389 (5 days)
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*flights from Liverpool Airport
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THORESBY HALL HOTEL
Mon 19th February
5 days £279
ALVASTON HALL HOTEL
Fri 23rd February
4 days £189
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Mon 5th March
5 days £309
NORTON GRANGE COASTAL VILLAGE
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5 days £219
ALVASTON HALL HOTEL
Fri 20th April
4 days £269
CORTON COASTAL VILLAGE
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Sat 6 January, 8pm

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Sat 13 January, 8pm

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Fri 19 January, 7.30pm

Fairport Convention
Fri 26 January, 7.30pm

Omid Djalili: Schmuck For a Night
Sat 27 January, 8pm

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Thu 1 February, 7.30pm

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Fri 2 February, 8pm

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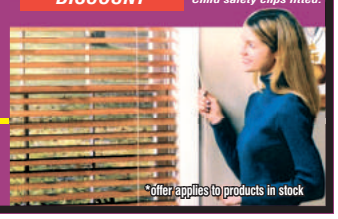

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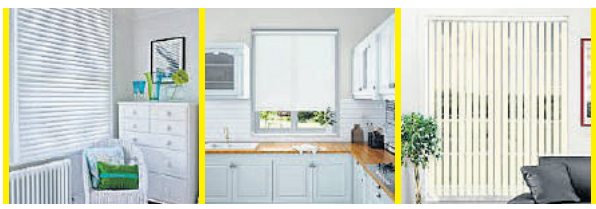

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2017/0973/FUL Variation of Condition No's 2 and 5 of planning permission 2017/0001/FUL to read: Condition No.2 The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with details shown on the following plans:- Plan reference AG(05)01D, AE(00)01B, AG(06)01D, AG(04)01D, AG(04)02D, AG(04)03C, M4632-DSSR-XX-XX-DR-MEP-90001, TC/P6112/16/101, LG(9-)02, LG(9-)01 & AG(91)02G and Condition No. 5 The use hereby permitted shall only take place between the hours of 0800 and 2200 hours on Monday to Friday and 0800 and 1800 hours on Saturdays & Sundays and shall not take place at any time on Public/Bank Holidays at West Lancashire College Skelmersdale Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale.

Application No: 2017/1308/FUL Use of land for the siting of 20 mobile homes for use by seasonal agricultural workers for the months March to November together with hardstanding and ancillary infrastructure for a temporary period until 30 November 2022 at Caravan Park, 467 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank.

This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/1298/FUL Erection of timber gates to the front entrance and build-up wall to match existing height at Lime Tree Farm House, 61 Winifred Lane, Aughton.

Application No: 2017/1307/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 imposed on 2017/0886/PNC to read The use hereby permitted shall only take place between the hours of 08:00 and 02:00 Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays at 23 Church Street, Ormskirk.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 3rd January 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT979

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Friday 22nd December 2017

£1000.....Mrs Kewley, Crosby
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£100.....Mrs Daley, Thornton
Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

Friday 29th December 2017

£1000.....Mrs Moore, West Derby
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BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY TOM CAIN

4th January 2018

Lots of love always

Mum, Ant, Andrew, Hannah,

Aunty Lyn, Nana & Grandma

xxxxxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TAYLOR RICHARD BRIAN (Brian)

The family of the late Richard Brian Taylor who passed away on the 14th December, would like to thank the Doctors, Nurses and Carers who looked after Brian during his last few months of illness.

We would also like to thank everyone for the kind messages of sympathy and the donations to Parkinsons UK given in Brian's memory. All your support has been gratefully appreciated. Thanks also to Howard's Funeral Directors for the up most care and professionalism at this sad time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RIMMER COLIN

Sylvia and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness shown during their recent sad loss. Also for the many cards and donations. Special thanks to Ken Howles for the beautiful service, also to Hunters of Ormskirk for their dignified arrangements.

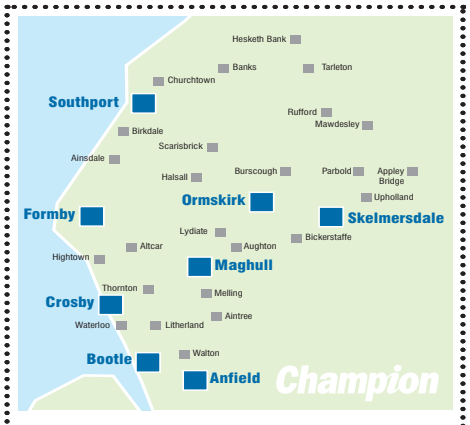
TRICKETT WILLIAM WINSTANLEY (Bill)

Sylvia and family would like to express their deep gratitude to everyone for their kind condolences, cards, flowers and support during this sad time.

Thank you to those who attended St. Anne's Church, West Lancs, Crematorium and the Yew Tree. Your company was so very much appreciated. A special thanks to the devoted staff at Liverpool Heart and Chest and Southport Hospitals ; also to the staff at the Beaufort Care Home. To Father Boniface, thank you so much for your beautiful and holy ministration.

Thanks to Les and Lynette for their ready hospitality.

Finally, our thanks to Hunters of Ormskirk for their caring and professional services



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BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

RIGBY JAMIE

To our forever friend Jay.
You are always in our hearts and thoughts,especially on your Birthday.
We love and miss you always.

Your forever friends
Joan and Jimmy
Joe and Jay

XXXX

RIGBY JAMIE

No longer with us to share your smile, but in our hearts all the while.

Birthday memories of you.

We miss you Jamie

Love Uncle Les,Hope,Mary,Adam and Family

XXXX

IN MEMORIAM

KAY ALBERT

4th January 2010

They say there is a reason, they say that time will heal,
But neither time or reason, will change the way we feel.
For no-one knows the heartache that lies behind our smiles,
No-one knows how many times we have broken down and cried.
We want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt,
You're so wonderful to think of, but so hard to be without.

Loved and sadly missed,
Wife Margaret,
Daughters Shirley and Sandra,
Son-in-laws Simon and Gregg,
and Grandchildren James, Ellie, Lydia, and Clara.

xxxx

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

RIGBY JAMIE 'Our Jay'

31st December 2017

This beautiful boy would have been 33 years old

You left us far too early,
you should have been much older,
now your Birthday is less joyful,
and the worlds a little colder.

But since you've gone away,
sometimes memories ease our pain,
we close our eyes and suddenly,
you're with us once again.

Reflections of a Son and brother,
linger all the while,
that loving personality,
that warm and cheeky smile.

Christmas time especially,
reminds us of the past,
of happy days and holidays,
and times that went too fast.

but the times we shared together,
were the best we could have had,
and these are what we cling to,
everytime we're feeling sad.

Loved and Missed always
from
Mum, Dad, Danielle, Liam, Stuart and reunited with little mate Taz
XXXXXX

Hugs and Kisses
Ava Emily, Iyla Beau, Poppy Jai and Maggie May
XXXX

Check out **champnews.com**

DEATHS

TICKLE SIAN

December 22nd 2017
Peacefully at Woodlands Hospice
Aged 53 years

Devoted Mother of Ben, Beloved Daughter of Molly and the late Stan, dear Sister of Stan and Sister-In-Law of Sandra. Much loved Aunt of David and Helen. Sian will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Service at Thornton Crematorium on Tuesday 9th January at 12:40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations to Woodlands Hospice c/o H.Leslie Humphreys 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, L23 5SE Tel: 0151 924 4805

PIMBLETT ENID

Sadly after a long illness on 18th December 2017
Aged 84 years

Dear Cousin of Robin and Wife Dianne and Roy and Wife Elizabeth. Enid was a former pupil and the Deputy Headmistress until her retirement at Ormskirk Grammar School. Enid will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and all who knew her.

Funeral Service will take place at St. Michael's Church, Aughton, at 2.45pm on Friday 12th January 2018, followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, at 4pm. Family flowers only by request but the family are receiving donations for St Michael's Church, Aughton. Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU. Tel: 01695 577244

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DEATHS

PARKER PETER

A true friend to many.

Sadly missed
Chris

PARKER PETER

(Pete)
17th December 2017

We are deeply saddened by the news of Pete's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

With deepest sympathy Amanda, Sam, Kelly & Lily x

HAMPSON ERIC

23rd Decemeber 2017
Aged 92 years

Died peacefully in his sleep. Devoted Husband of Sheila. Beloved Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad. Eric will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service at All Saints Parish Church on Monday 8th January at 12:30pm followed by Interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Flowers welcome, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for the Salvation Army. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR
Telephone: 01704 500086

DEEGAN DANIEL (DANNY)

On 20th December 2017
Tragically aged 26 years

Much loved Son, Dad, Brother, Partner, Grandson, Uncle and Friend to many, will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Service will take place at West Lancs Crematorium on Tuesday 9th January at 11:30am, family flowers only please by request, donations if desired are yet to be decided.

All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

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DEATHS

QUINN FRANK

22nd December 2017
Suddenly but peacefully after a long illness
Aged 83 years of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Husband of Ruth, loving Dad of Anthony, Francis & Mandy, devoted Grandad of Emily, Amy, Aiden and Jacob and Great Grandad to Riley and Rosie. Requiem mass and interment at St Anne's RC Church, Ormskirk on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 12noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Dementia UK
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012

CHESWORTH LEONARD EDWARD (Lenny)

On 22nd December 2017
Peacefully in Hospital after a short illness
Aged 87 years

Loving Husband of Betty, devoted Dad of Robert (Deceased) Irene, Julie, Leonard and Lynn. Dear Father-In-Law of Bob, Paul, Ann and Alan, cherished Grandad and Great-Grandad of all his Grandchildren will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 11th January at 12:15pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Stroke Association.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

JONES BARBARA

20TH December 2017
Died peacefully in Silver Birch Nursing Home
Aged 85 years

Will be sadly missed by her Daughter Mandy, her family and Loll her neighbour.
All enquiries to the Co-Op Ormskirk

KILLEEN KEN

23rd December 2017
Aged 75 years.
Passed away peacefully at home.

Loving Husband of Anne, devoted Father to Nick and Mandy, dear Father in law to Jon and Dawn, caring fun loving Grandad to Adam, Faye, Emma, Sean and Kelly.
"Loved you yesterday,
Love you still,
Always have,
Always will."
Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Thursday 4th January 2018 at 11.30am. Please note family flowers only and if desired donations can be made to a charity of your own choice. All enquiries to MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22A Liverpool Road North, Burscough L40 5TP.
Tel: 01704 891555.

KEMP BERNADETTE ROSE

December 24th 2017
Peacefully aged 77 years.

Dearly beloved Wife to Derrick. Exceptional Mum to Anthony, Caron, Richard and Michael and Mother in law to Elaine, Sandro and Sue. Amazing Granny to Kirsten, Jessica, Deborah, Rose, Morgan, Rebecca, Chantelle, Valentino and Emily. Will be sadly missed and always remembered. Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady of Compassion Church Formby on Friday January 5th at 12noon followed by burial at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Bernadette requests a touch of pink to be worn. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Liverpool Seafarers Centre c/o Coyne Bros 3 Old Mill Lane Formby L37 3PE.
Tel 01704 873899.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
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MILLINGTON WILLIAM HENRY (Billy)

18th December 2017
Aged 84 years

Died peacefully at home Devoted Husband of Pauline. Much loved Dad of Sandra, loving Grandad of Emily, Rose and Connie, Billy will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at St Peter's Parish Church, Birkdale followed by Committal at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 4th January at 12:15pm. Flowers welcome.
Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR
Telephone: 01704 500086

DROOGAN PETER

25th December 2017
Aged 82 years

Died peacefully after a long illness. Peter will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 5th January at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Oxfam. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR
Telephone: 01704 500086.

HARVEY CARL JOHN

23rd December 2017
Suddenly at his home in Westhead
Aged 54 years

Dearly loved Husband of Kaye, devoted Dad of Ellis and Jared. Father-In-Law of Jack, loving Son of Sandra and Brother to Neil, Ross and Alexandra. Funeral details to follow. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H.Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

OULTON MURIEL

24th December 2017
Suddenly but peacefully in hospital
Aged 83 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Joseph, loving Mum of Susan and Christine, dear Mother in law of Mark and Dave and devoted Grandma of Leah and David. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012

WOODFORD MARY (MARIE)

On 26th December 2017
Peacefully in Birch Green Nursing Home
Aged 74 years

Loving Wife of the late Patrick, devoted Mum, Nan, Great Nan, Sister and Auntie. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Requiem Mass followed by Interment will take place at St Richards Church on Friday 19th January at 10.30am. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane.
Tel: 01695 559868.

MAYERS MARILYN

On 20th December 2017
Peacefully at home after a long illness

Loving Wife of Les, devoted Mum of Darren and Wayne, cherished Nan of all her Grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Rest in peace angel.
Funeral Service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Friday 5th January at 1:00pm, family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Southport Kidney Fund, all enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service
29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

DELVES ANN MARY

24th December 2017
Peacefully at her home in Skelmersdale
Aged 74 years

The dearly loved Wife of Bill, loving Mum of John and David, dear Mother in law of Sharon and devoted Nan of Caroline and Christopher.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarsbrick.
Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012

PASSEY GWYNETH

23rd December 2017
Aged 87 years

Died peacefully at home. A loving unassuming Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Friend. She will be sadly missed by all that knew her.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 12th January at 1:20pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR
Telephone: 01704 500086.

KILSHAW MARGARET

24th December 2017
Aged 88 years

Died peacefully after a short illness. Devoted Wife of the late Leonard. Much loved Mum of Annette and Cliff, loving Nana of Alex and Ross and Great-Grandma of Jesse. Margaret will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 11th January at 12:40pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for British Heart Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR, Telephone: 01704 500086.

RILEY JIMMY

On 19th December 2017
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 56 years

Much loved Brother of Julie and Tracy and a dear Uncle of all his Nieces and Nephews will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral Service will take place at St. Helens Crematorium on Monday 8th January at 4:00pm family flowers only please by request donations if desired for Macmillan Cancer Support. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service
29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

ROBERTS PAUL (ROBO)

Passed away suddenly on
26th December 2017
Aged 45 years
of Aughton

Will be sadly missed by all the family.
For Funeral arrangements and further enquiries please contact Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton
Tel: 01695 424888

ROBERTS HERBERT (BERT)

On 22nd December 2017
Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family
Aged 88 years

Dearly loved Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 4th January at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Cancer Research.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane.
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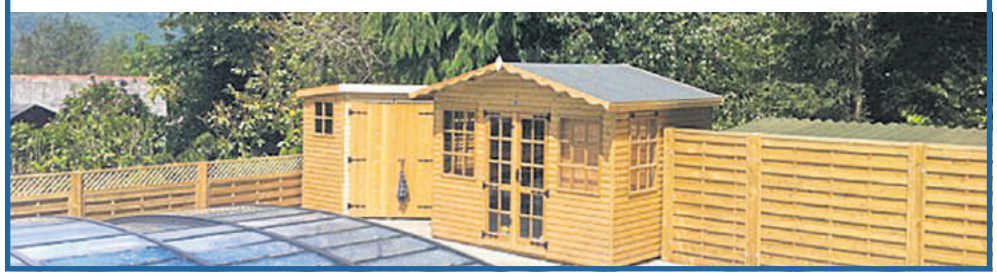

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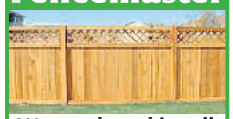

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I'VE decided to dispense with New Year's resolutions this year. It's largely to avoid the pain of stumping up for a gym membership that'll inevitably expire of own accord by about February, but mainly because I'd much rather work on the goals I've already got, thanks.

Goals which probably ought to include not spending so much of my summer sauntering around the grounds of stately homes in Cheshire. But I genuinely wonder whether Cholmondeley Castle is going to be one of them. What was once openly touted as the North West's answer to Goodwood took a breather last year because its organisers were having a long, hard think about the event and – at the time of writing at least – no firm announcement about whether the Power and Speed event will be back for 2018.

I went for years and loved the spectre of Ferrari F40s and Jaguar D-types being punted angrily up the Marquess of Cholmondeley's garden path. Nor was it just cars; the howl of the Avro Vulcan's Rolls-Royce turbojets as it flew over the 2015 event was one of my all-time favourite moments of any car show I've been to. What originally started out as the Pageant of Power had momentum aplenty behind it, but it year-on-year virtually nothing changed. It was still a superb mix of cars, but it was one we'd all sampled before, so seeing it being rested wasn't that surprising. Yet I really hope that while the Cholmondeley show's been off the road it's been given a thorough service, a bit of a valet and fitted with a turbocharger, because the likes of you and I shouldn't have to go all the way down to Goodwood to hear what a Bugatti Chiron sounds like at full chat.

Let's hope the organisers make it their New Year's resolution to freshen it up, get new cars in and change things around a bit in time for this summer...

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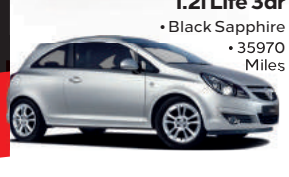

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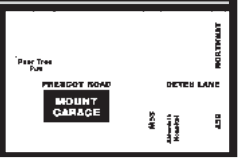

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Skem endure New Year to forget after conceding six in two games

Glossop North End 5
Skelmersdale United 0

SKELMERSDALE endured a festive period to forget after they lost both matches and conceded 11 goals in the process, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

After the postponement of their Boxing Day game at Bamber Bridge, Skelmersdale United were looking forward to a couple of games over the New Year weekend.

However, sadly they didn't go to plan and in the end Dave Powell's team suffered their biggest losses since he took over the managerial seat at Skelmersdale in September.

They were on the receiving end of a 5-0 thrashing away at Glossop North End and hit for six at home to Prescot Cables when they lost 6-1.

On Saturday hopes were high at Glossop's Surrey Street ground, but this came crashing down after only three minutes.

A right-wing corner was headed on at the near-post by Brad Roscoe, the ball going beyond the far-post and it was then played back low across the area to Zeph Thomas who had time to steer the ball into the net from about three yards out to give Glossop the lead.

The game then settled down into a midfield battle for a while, with rather strangely Glossop making a series of attempts to lob Skem goalkeeper Lee Callum Roberts from distance, but the young Preston North End loanee dealt with them very competently.

As the half progressed Glossop were beginning to have the edge in terms of possession though Skelmersdale still posed a threat on the breakaway.

Glossop number eleven Ryan White drove a shot over the Skem crossbar, before Glossop midfielder Chris Baguley who was arguably the best player on the pitch was thwarted by Roberts three times over a quarter-hour period.

In the 44th minute Glossop netted their second goal and Baguley was the instigator, lifting a free-kick from by the corner flag high to the far post.

Centre-forward Ben Deegan lifted himself up and headed the ball downward inside the post despite a despairing dive from Roberts.

It could have been a different story as Skelmersdale went close twice after the interval.

First Nathan Randell fired wide at the far-post after another good cross from left-back Jack Fleming.

The game was effectively all over in the 56th minute.

Baguley played winger White in down the left channel, as Roberts came out White stroked the ball tidily underneath him to make it 3-0.

Six minutes later Glossop were awarded a spot-kick. Callum Chippendale battled his way in the Skem area from the left and was felled. Bagulay's penalty kick rattled the post and Deegan reacted first and smacked in the rebound for his second to make it 4-0.

Baguley got his just reward on 74 minutes when he made it 5-0 via the post from 20 yards.

In the latter stages to their credit Skelmersdale pressed and came close to grabbing a consolation, the best shot from Joe Downey was greeted by another good save from Wynne.

In truth, Skelmersdale just hadn't the strength required to stop Glossop on the day and suffered the fate of having to endure conceding five goals without reply.

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Skem's star striker to join Welsh Premier League side

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Andy Owens (in blue) in action for Skem. Picture by John Driscoll

ALTHOUGH Skelmersdale United and Burscough have had contrasting fortunes over the festive period, both have lost forwards to pastures new - in one case the player making a leap of four divisions!

The Champion understands that Skelmersdale striker Andy Owens is this week expected to sign for Welsh Premier League club Connah's Quay Nomads, while Burscough forward Adam Gilchrist last week joined FC United of Manchester.

Owens' move was first made public on New Year's Day during an interview aired on Skelmersdale United's club website, when manager Dave Powell, said: "The move has been on the cards for a few weeks."

Owens was omitted from the Skelmersdale line-up for the match with Prescot Cables on January 1.

Owens has been leading the Skelmersdale attack all season accumulating some 11 league goals on the way.

28 year old Owens started his career at Stoke City and includes appearances in the football league for Accrington Stanley, Mansfield Town on his CV as well as clubs like Southport, Telford, Barrow and Stockport County.

He signed for Skelmersdale during the summer and after a slow start has been a real leader on the pitch and the fulcrum of most of their attacking moves.

Adam Gilchrist has been with Burscough for two seasons, he has been among the goals for all that period and will be missed for his strength and experience at North-West Counties League level.

Adam's younger brother Jason recently left FC United and joined Southport for what is said to be a big money move for the level and clearly the Manchester side think he has the potential to emulate his brother with the club.

Gilchrist who has previously played for Ashton Athletic among others made his debut for FC United in their New Years Day derby game with Salford City coming on as substitute.

Skelmersdale United and Burscough are without midweek games this week.

On Saturday Burscough are at home to Widnes 3pm kick off. They are managed by former Skelmersdale United stars Steve Akrigg and Kevin Towey so will no doubt not be up for doing their former rivals any favours, and will be aiming to build on a substantial unbeaten run they are on.

Skelmersdale on Saturday travel to "black pudding country" where they take on Ramsbottom United.

Dave Powell's team will be looking to bounce back to form, and they have a chance too. Skelmersdale beat Ramsbottom 3-2 at Stormy Corner back in October; however, Andy Owens struck twice for Skem that day.

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